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(54) **METHOD FOR DETERMINING ION CHANNEL ACTIVITY OF A SUBSTANCE**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for determining the ion channel activity of a substance comprises the steps of (i) expressing the substance as a heterologous protein in a host cell, and (ii) determining changes in permeability of the plasma membrane of the host cell induced by expression of the heterologous protein. A screening method for determining ion channel modulating activity of a test substance is also disclosed.

23 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets